

MONDAY 1 JUNE 2020

At a meeting of LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL held via video conference at 7.00pm

Members

Mr G Robinson
Mr S Hay
Mrs J Williamson
Mrs A Simpson
Mr A Irvine

Mr E Knight
Mr A Wenger
Mr A Johnston
Mr A Carter
Ms K Fraser

Ex Officio

Cllr M Bell
Cllr P Campbell
Cllr S Leask

In Attendance

Mrs P Christie, SIC
Ms F Valente, Clerk

Chairman

Mr J Anderson

06/20/01

Circular

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Cllr Bell asked why the Councillors had not been invited to the previous meeting. The Chairman apologised for the error in the Lerwick Councillors being omitted from the meeting invite and expressed his gratitude for the much-valued support which the Lerwick Councillors have given to LCC over the past years.

06/20/02

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr C Smith, Mr M Duncan and Mr D Ristori.

06/20/03

Declarations of Interest

Cllr Campbell expressed an interest in the Planning item and Cllr Leask and Mrs Williamson expressed an interest in the discussion on the grant applications. Mr Anderson expressed an interest in the Staneyhill Development.

06/20/04

Minutes of the Meeting held on 4 May 2020

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved by Mrs Simpson, seconded by Mrs Williamson. There were no matters arising.

06/20/05

Correspondence from Shetland Charitable Trust

There was a further discussion about the reply from Shetland Charitable Trust in response to a subsequent email following May's meeting. The discussion centred on the fact that Shetland will need money invested in all aspects of the economy in order to recover. The crisis was likely to get worse before it improves. Some of the biggest challenges will be to businesses, and it is likely that HIE will need to look at how this will be managed locally. Mr Robinson said that HIE had been under threat due to Government policies on regional development agencies, but it was likely that they would be proving their worth during the recovery period. We will need to ask HIE what they propose to do, especially with the increased pressure from the fall in output by the oil and gas industry. Social renewal and supporting the community would be difficult but essential and it would be important to keep a dialogue going with SCT and HIE to find out how they foresee the situation developing.

Mr Hay said transport will need a rethink to protect both islanders travelling for work and leisure and to protect the local tourist industry as the crisis is having a huge impact on the local hospitality sector. Mr Robinson said that the "Island's deal" had been put on hold for the time being and it was probably not going to be as lucrative as it had been anticipated.

06/20/06

Pre-Planning Application Consultation – Staneyhill Development

PJP Architects had asked for comments on the pre-application planning proposal for the development and a link to a video presentation had been circulated. Overall, Members thought that it was a well-designed site, given the limitations of the topography, and it appeared that concerns from the original masterplan consultations had been taken into consideration. Mr Wenger raised the possibility of traffic problems due to the layout of the roads and the fact that it appeared that a bottleneck of cars was likely during peak travel times and the proximity of the school. He was also concerned about the noise that would be produced by rock breaking and blasting that would be needed to level parts of the site during construction of the houses and roads. Mr Robinson said that planning permission for the roads network around the development had already been given and that all the aspects of congestion and access/egress to the site had been considered. Mr Anderson said that the construction noise would have to be managed and how this was achieved would be part of the planning application, and that other quieter methods of rock breaking such as chemical splitting might be employed. Cllr Campbell agreed and said that the current crisis might lead to different patterns of schooling and therefore the impact on traffic as well as when the noise needed to be minimised would probably change accordingly.

Cllr Leask said he was pleased to see that speed restriction on the roads appeared to have been designed into the site. This had been discussed during the masterplan phase. Mr Robinson added that the housing appeared to be set low down into the hill rather than breaking the skyline, which had been a concern for local residents.

The clerk was asked to respond to the Architects with the comments on the development.

06/20/07

Access steps and road to Sletts Pier

There was a discussion about the poor state of the access steps and road to Sletts Pier which had effectively cut off access to the pier for walkers and swimmers who might wish to make use of the pier. It was reported Cllr Smith had approached SIC regarding the area and would report back soon. Mr Robinson said it was a concern as the missing

handrail made the steps unsafe, although a barrier had thankfully been placed in front of the steps and the area taped off. It was hoped that works to make this area safe and accessible would be carried out soon. Mr Carter said that this area could be an attractive part of the town but for the moment it was just a scrappy bit of shoreline. It really needed to be tidied up. Mr Anderson said that the winter weather had moved some of the stones and that this had left the Sea Path and wall vulnerable to undermining in future bad storms. The clerk was asked to write to SIC and to copy the email to Cllr Smith, setting out the concerns raised by Members.

06/20/08 **Re-opening of the Recycling Centre**

It was noted that the recycling centre had opened that day. SIC had extended the opening hours to take into account increased demand after the weeks of closure. Work had been undertaken to make it safer for staff and users of the service. It was reported that on the first day of opening the queues of vehicles to use it had not been too bad. Cllr Bell commented that staff had done a great job in getting ready to reopen under the circumstances and it was a credit to them that the service was back up and running so well. The chairman agreed with this and he noted that the Post Office had also been reported as working extraordinarily hard in Shetland during the lockdown.

06/20/09 **'Poo Bags' at lower auld AHS access gate**

Mr Anderson reported that there had been a surge in deposits of used poo bags at the Twageos Road gate to the old AHS entrance. This appeared to be a nuisance throughout the town, but it seemed to be a particular problem in this area, which was probably due to the fact that until recently there used to be a bin beside the gate. He commented that SIC had recently carried out another "bag it and bin it" campaign which was very welcome. It was a shame that the bag it part of this message was not being followed up by binning the bags. Ms Fraser said that the area around Twageos Road and the old school was particularly well used by dog walkers and that the area needed to be cleaned up. She suggested that the bin should be reinstated. The clerk was asked to write to Environmental Health to ask for the bin to be put back. (Note: this was done immediately and the bin has been put back).

06/20/10 **Finance – Core Funding Report 27 May 2020**

There were no comments on the core funding report for 27 May 2020.

06/20/11 **Crisis Grant Status Report**

There was currently around £6700 left in the crisis grant account. There was a discussion about two applications for funding that had not been decided by email discussion prior to the meeting. The Mareel Writers Group had asked for a grant of £1400 to continue a project of curating writing produced by local writers during the lockdown that would be performed and recorded on video. Ms Fraser said she thought this would be a worthwhile project although it did not appear to fit with the requirements of the crisis grant. Mr Hay agreed whilst pointing out that the project was actively engaging with people, which was a great benefit for mental health. Mr Robinson said that it might be more appropriate for the normal grant. Ms Fraser proposed that the clerk wrote back to the Writers Group to suggest they reapplied for the grant from the LCC's core grant. Mr Hay seconded this.

The restorative justice project Space2Face had requested a grant of £3446.50 in order to continue funding their project. Mr Robinson said that the organisation is commissioned to carry out its work and surely if there was a problem with increased costs of delivery Space2Face should have this conversation with the commissioning bodies who should meet the difference. Mr Hay said that more information was needed about the additional costs. It was proposed that the grant was turned down with a suggestion for Space2Face to speak to the commissioners of the service and to come back with more information about crisis related costs that might be applicable to the grant funding.

06/20/12

Any Other Business

- a. Mr Robinson asked if there had been any response to his query in March regarding the lights not working around the bin sheds at Burnside. He reported that disinfecting of the area had been going on, which was appreciated. The Clerk was asked to chase up the lighting issue, although it was acknowledged that at this time a year it was not a pressing matter.
- b. Mr Knight asked how the public could access the community council meeting while they were taking place online. Cllr Bell replied that under the current emergency rules the community councils were entitled to meet within the public being present. However, it would be possible for members of the public that wanted to listen in to join the meeting however, they would need to get in contact with the clerk to ensure that a link to the meeting was available to them.

The meeting ended at 8.45 pm.

Minute ends.

CHAIRMAN
LERWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Chairman.....

Date.....